

City of Taunton

Office of the Mayor

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September 13, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I write to you to express my strong support for the Tribal-State compact negotiated between the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The approval of this compact is integral to the economic health of my city moving forward.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the City of Taunton have worked cooperatively and collaboratively to move forward with the Tribe's plans for a destination resort casino on land that they have applied to have take in to trust in Taunton. This project will greatly improve the economic health of the Tribe, the Commonwealth and the City at a time when projects of this magnitude are few and far between.

The compact negotiated between the Tribe and the Commonwealth strikes a balance between the needs and rights of both sovereign governments. The interests of Taunton as the host city were considered and recognized throughout the process. In addition, the City and the Tribe have entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement ("IGA") that establishes a cooperative relationship between the parties and addresses Tribal and public needs as well as the increase in municipal services expected from the casino facility. The City will continue to work closely with the Tribe throughout the application process to ensure the goals and visions set forth in the IGA are preserved. Further, the voters of the City overwhelmingly approved the Tribe's plan for gaming on this land in a popular referendum held on June 9, 2012.

A City of Firsts

First Woman Town Proprietor- First Female Entrepreneur
First to Fly Liberty & Union Flag- First Major Silver Manufacturing Center

This Compact is the result of careful negotiation, consensus building, and collaboration, and I believe it has produced an agreement that is fair to all parties. I respectfully request your expeditious approval of this Compact so we may move forward with bringing much needed jobs and economic development to the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe, the City of Taunton, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Hoye, Jr.
Mayor, City of Taunton

cc: Chairman Cedric Cromwell, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
Franklin Keel, Regional Director, Eastern Region, BIA
Randall Trickey, Realty Officer, Eastern Region, BIA
Nedra Darling, Department of the Interior, Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
Paula Hart, Director, Office of Indian Gaming

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